

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Needed: WIAW Morse Code Reception Reports Announcement by David Crawford KF4VXJ

WIAW, the ARRL HQ's main station, could use reception reports of their Morse Code practice, and all bulletin, transmissions. These transmissions are for the amateur radio community's benefit. They are transmitted simultaneously on all HF bands, and on two meters on 147.555 MHz.

Morse code (CW) practice transmissions are sent starting at 9 am, 4 pm, 7 pm, and 10 pm on 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, and 28.0675 MHz.

ARRL Voice bulletins are transmitted in single sideband at 9:45 pm each weekday on 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590 and 147.555 MHz.

ARRL bulletins are sent in Morse code starting at 5 pm, 8 pm, and 11 pm, using the same frequencies as the practice transmissions.

ARRL bulletins are sent in three digital modes starting at 6 and 9 pm, using RTTY (45.45-baud), PSK31, MFSK16 formats. The frequencies used are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 kHz and 147.555 MHz. The formats are sent in a rotating format, so see <http://www.arrl.org/digital-transmissions> for details.

A proper reception report should contain: Your name, location, transceiver info, antenna info (include orientation if directional), date, and time. For each frequency heard, give it a *truthful* RST report with any comments desired. RST are the initials for Readability (0-5), Strength (0-9), and Tone (0-9).

Send reception reports to Joe Carcia electronically at wlaw@arrl.org. Further information on the WIAW transmissions are at <http://www.arrl.org/wlaw>.

Next RARS Meeting: October 4

7:15 PM: "RARS Auction." Note that the meeting will start 15 minutes earlier for extra time at the auction. **Sellers should arrive at 6:45 PM.** For more auction details, check out

<http://rars.org/auction.php>.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

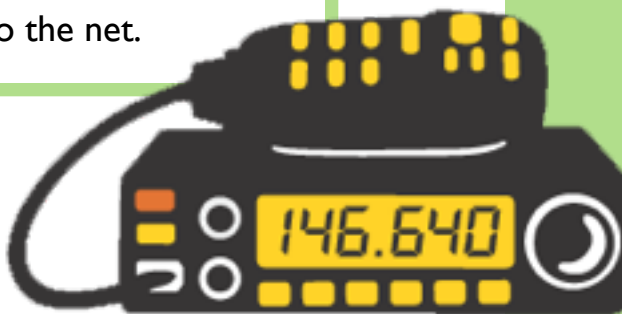
Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

146.640 & 443.625 (88.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$14 exam fee, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

October Birthdays

Scott	KJ4BPV	10/1
Pete	K4PHS	10/2
Dave	K4SAN	10/2
Jay	KM4EP	10/2
Dale	W4AUV	10/5
Rod	AB4RG	10/5
Marisa	KJ4TAL	10/7
Todd	AG4AY	10/8
Tana	KB3UTX	10/8
Mike	K4PSP	10/9
Gale	K4GGB	10/10
Chris	KI4MMV	10/10
Frank	KY4W	10/11
Richard	KB4TKQ	10/15
Sean	KJ4EGT	10/17
Candy	KJ4OBQ	10/18
Mike	K4DRT	10/19
Olivia	KG4IYI	10/20
Chuck	KC4JGI	10/21
Gary	KN4AQ	10/22
Ric	KI4PVC	10/25
Cecil	KG4OQC	10/26
Vince	WA2SRZ	10/28
Ken	KD4JMK	10/29
Joe	WB5ZPQ	10/30

August 2011

RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 590
Traffic: 30/22
Minutes: 610
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets:
Checkins: 110
Minutes: 330
Sessions: 8

Upcoming Hamfests

10/1 57th Rock Hill Hamfest & Computer Expo
Rock Hill, SC
<http://www.rockhillhamfest.com/>

10/8 Winston-Salem October Swapfest
Winston-Salem, NC
<http://www.w4nc.com>

10/8 LaGrange Hamfest
LaGrange, GA
<http://www.lagrangeradioclub.org>

10/8 First Sweetwater TN Hamfest
Sweetwater, TN
<http://www.w4yj.com/>

10/8- 46th Melbourne Hamfest & State Conv.
10/9 Melbourne, FL
<http://www.pcars.org>

10/15 Gray Hamfest
Gray, TN
<http://www.grayhamfesttn.org/>

10/22 Hamfest Chattanooga
East Ridge, TN
<http://w4am.org/e107/news.php>

10/22 Sumter Hamfest
Sumter, SC
<http://webspace.webring.com>

New RARS Members

Robbin Thomas	KJ4DAZ
Autumn Foley	KJ4DAY
Sherwood Dixon	KJ4DAP
Gizmo Gutreuter	KK4BVR
Victor Garner	KJ4ZJE

President's Corner

Column by Karl Bowman W4CHX, RARS President

An important aspect of amateur radio is the willingness of hams to get involved with public service. Such activities are wide-ranging, including: emergency communications during disasters, eg, ARES, etc; reporting of adverse weather conditions, eg, SKYWARN; providing communications for charitable organizations during their fund-raising events; and, augmenting communications during civic events. It is well known that RARS members are involved in public service in our community and they do an outstanding job. Obviously, RARS members must continue these very important public service activities.

From my perspective, there are 2 aspects of public service activities that deserve further comment. First, more RARS members should become involved in public service to our surrounding community. And second, more “public service” is needed for RARS and its members.

RARS members should encourage their colleagues to sign-up for public service events and invite these new volunteers to interact with the RARS members going to the event. Such interactions could begin during the planning process and continue via carpooling, going out for a meal, etc. With regard to providing service to RARS and its members, two observations have been made: it is difficult to get volunteers for RARSFest; and, when our members need help with their ham shacks, most notably their antennas, it can be hard to find experienced (and able-bodied!) individuals to provide assistance. I do not have immediate solutions, but I encourage you to think about your recent public service activities. And, when a request for assistance is put out, please consider responding favorably.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding public service to the community, or to RARS and its members, please do not hesitate to call me at (919) 669-6068 or send me an email at w4chx@arrl.net.

Minutes of the August 16, 2011 RARS Board Meeting

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

Present: Ken McEwen KI4OTO, Don Downs WA4AVU, John Snellen AI4RT, Karl Bowman W4CHX, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Bob Starkenburg W4TTX, Jack Foster N6UYB, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, and Charles Swindell WB4DCM.

Guests: Bill Mars, AK4BL

Apologies and/or emailed reports: CJ KJ4OBQ, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, and Courtney KI4HOS.

1. Call to order (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. Approval of minutes (Karl W4CHX and Charles WB4DCM): The Minutes of the July 18, 2011 meeting of the RARS Board were approved.
3. Vice President's report (CJ KJ4OBQ): No report.
4. Treasurer's report (Greg KE4PAX): RARS now has 244 members. There are 77 old members that need to renew from last year. We have ordered new manuals for the Tech Class. A donation has been made to Dayton Amateur Radio Association to support the Youth DXpedition. Our insurance coverage has not been transferred to the new company yet.
5. Secretary's report (Charles WB4DCM): No report.
6. Committee reports:
 - a. Public Service Director (John AI4RT): John advises that the web page has been updated to reflect all events to the end of the year with the exception of the City of Oaks Marathon. He will make a presentation to OCRA on September 12.
 - b. Public Information Officer (Gary KN4AQ): No report.

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c. Education Director (Virginia NC4VA): Virginia reported that there will be a Technician Class at Wake Med in Cary on October 1 and 8. The class is anticipated to be rather large. There is information on the class on the ARRL web page. Graduation kits from ARRL have been ordered. In addition, they are obtaining information from various manufacturers to pass out to the students.

d. Field Day Chair (Bob W4TTX): Bob advises that the ARRL has posted a list of logs received from Field Day participants. The posting did not, however, list the scores!

e. FM Repeater Chair (Gary KN4AQ): Gary reports that there has not been much progress on the moving of 145.13 repeater. They are working on an antenna issue at the moment.

f. RARSFest Chair (John AI4RT): John advised the Board that the first RARSFest meeting will be held on October 7, 2011. It appears that the date for the RARSfest will be April 7, 2012. We anticipate being the ARRL State Convention.

g. Exciter Chair (Courtney KI4HOS): Based on her email communication, "the Exciter's going well; as always, articles are welcome."

h. Hospitality Chair (Mary Jo K4MJL): No report.

i. Net Manager (Mary KG4OQA): No report.

j. ARRL Liaison (Chuck K4HF): No report.

k. At-Large Director (Don WA4AVU): Don is working on a presentation on APRS. He is tentatively looking at a weekend in October.

l. At-Large Director (Ken KI4OTO): Ken raised the issue of sending "radiograms" to potential new members. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that a letter would better convey our intent.

m. At-Large Director (Jack N6UYB): Jack has asked Jeff AC4ZO to participate in a presentation at Western Wake Regional Library in Cary on October 15 at 2:00 PM. This is for a group of youths.

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n. W4DW/W4RNC Trustee (Jeff AC4ZO): No report.

o. RARS VE Coordinators (Joe WA4GIR and Liz KO4CK): No report.

p. RARS Webmaster (Hank K4HM): Based on his email communication, "I have updated the RARSFest pages to include the 2012 dates. If anyone spots incorrect dates please let me know. I have made a few minor corrections to the Members Only pages regarding links and buttons that did not function as intended."

7. Old business:

a. Followup on agenda items introduced by Bob KB4RGC (Ken KI4OTO): This item was discussed by Ken in items 6(l) above.

b. Board of Directors job descriptions (Hank K4HM): Hank K4HM was not present. However, some of the job descriptions have been completed and posted.

c. Bereavement donations (Greg KE4PAX): This issue was addressed at the last Board meeting.

8. New business:

a. Youth programs in RARS (Bill Mars AK4BL): Bill AK4BL then took the floor and presented an idea for youth. He and his wife are willing to coordinate one Saturday a month and have youths come in and see ham radio. He indicated that many parents of home schooled kids want opportunities for their youths to mingle. His focus will be youths 8 to 12 years old. Karl W4CHX suggested that they attend the September meeting when the Youth DXpedition will give a presentation. Bill will develop something in writing. A motion was made, seconded and approved to endorse the project.

b. Net Control Operators: An issue was raised about net control operators missing their assigned nets and the subsequent delay in beginning of the net. After much discussion, it was decided that those issues only represented about 3% of the time and the back- up system seems to be working.

9. Any other business:

a. Chuck K4HF raised the issue of the Nominating Committee normally reports to the club in October as to a slate of officers. Karl W4CHX appointed Chuck, Don WA4AVU and John AI4RT on the committee.

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b.Greg KE4PAX asked about the “white letter” updates. Ken KI4OTO will be the point person on this issue. The “white letter” is a document that describes the organization, activities and tax status of RARS.

10.Board member’s comments:

a.Gary KN4AQ advised that he was going to be very busy with Ham Nation and that he will probably miss most, if not all, remaining meetings. He suggested that RARS needs to locate a replacement for his responsibilities.

b.Greg KE4PAX announced that TRRS was having its annual fund raiser on September 23 and was looking for donations. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for RARS to buy one ticket.

11.Adjournment (Karl W4CHX): The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Minutes of the September 6, 2011 RARS General Meeting

Minutes by Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

1.Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Karl W4CHX. There were 61 members and guests present for the meeting.

2.Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the RARS General Membership meeting on August 2, 2011 were approved, with one correction: section 6a, line 2, the date should be, (8/9).

3.Vice President’s report (CJ KJ4OBQ):VP CJ KJ4OBQ announced that the October meeting program would be the auction. Cliff W4FT will officiate again. The doors will open at 6:45 PM. The auction will be using preprinted tags. You must have some tape or other adhesive to attach a tag to your item. The APRS class has been scheduled for Saturday, October 15. The time and place are to be set. Don Downs WA4AUV will be the presenter.

4.Treasurer’s report (Greg KE4PAX): Greg KE4PAX advised that RARS now has 258 members. There are 65 former members from last year that have not renewed their membership. If any RARS member has any questions, please contact Greg KE4PAX or Karl W4CHX for further information.

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5. Announcements (Karl W4CHX):

- a. RARS Dinner: second Tuesday, (9/13/11), 6:30 PM, Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue (Hwy 70), monitor the 146.64 repeater on Tuesday (9/13) for any update information.
- b. RARS Board meeting: Third Tuesday (9/20/11), 7:00 PM, Triangle Radio Reading Service, 211 E. Six Forks Road, Suite 103; any RARS member is welcome to attend. For more information, contact any RARS officer.
- c. After meeting gathering: Applebee's, Six Forks and Wake Forest Roads (by the Costco)
- d. Upcoming hamfests: Greater Louisville Hamfest, Sheperdsville, KY (9/10); Virginia "Back to the Beach" Hamfest, Virginia Beach, VA (9/17); 12th Annual TEN-TEC Factory Hamfest, Sevierville, TN (9/23-24); Southeastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO), Pigeon Forge, TN (9/23-24); and, 57th Rock Hill Hamfest and Computer Expo, Rock Hill, SC (10/1).
- e. Guests: Brett Pearce, Lisa Jenkins, Susan Jones WA4AKB, Matt Olson KK4BAC, Dan Rothra (no call yet), Scott Olson KJ4DAT, Sarah Jenkins (call sign in progress), and Wade KK4BDR.


6. Reports from RARS Board members and others:

- a. John AI4RT took the floor and introduced Ms. Paula Lipford, who works to raise money for the MS Society. Paula advised that they raise money not only for research, but also for folks who suffer with the disease and need assistance. The group raises about \$1.7 million dollars for research and assistance. Amateurs play an important part of the MS bike ride. There are 17 scheduled to assist. It takes a total of 600 volunteers to put on the race. Paula also announced that there would be a "mud run" at Camp Butner. Next, Larry and Blanch Dean, organizers for the MS fits bicycle team, took the floor and thanked the amateur community for their support of the MS "Ice Cream Ride". They presented an award to RARS which was accepted by President Karl W4CHX.

7. Any other business: There was no other business to come before the meeting.

8. Drawing: The winner was David KF4VXJ.

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9.Program: VP CJ KJ4OBQ introduced the Jenkins family and Deb KI4VVE who attended the [Youth DX Adventure in Costa Rica](#). Grace Jenkins, KJ4KWG; Sam Jenkins, KI4TRG; Steve Jenkins, KA8HXX; and Deb Bray, KI4VVE then presented an interesting description of their DXpedition. There were 14 folks on the trip that consisted of the kids (ages 10 to 17) and adults. They stayed in a home that they described as a “bed and breakfast with antennas”. The residence was a 1/4 to 1/2 acre compound with 5 or 6 towers and all kinds of antennas. The group made approximately 3000 contacts. When the presentation was over, CJ reminded club members that RARS had made a donation to the event.

10.Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM by Karl W4CHX

Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The Wake County ARES

Net meets Thursdays at 8:30 PM on the 146.640 repeater. We provide discussion training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM.

This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

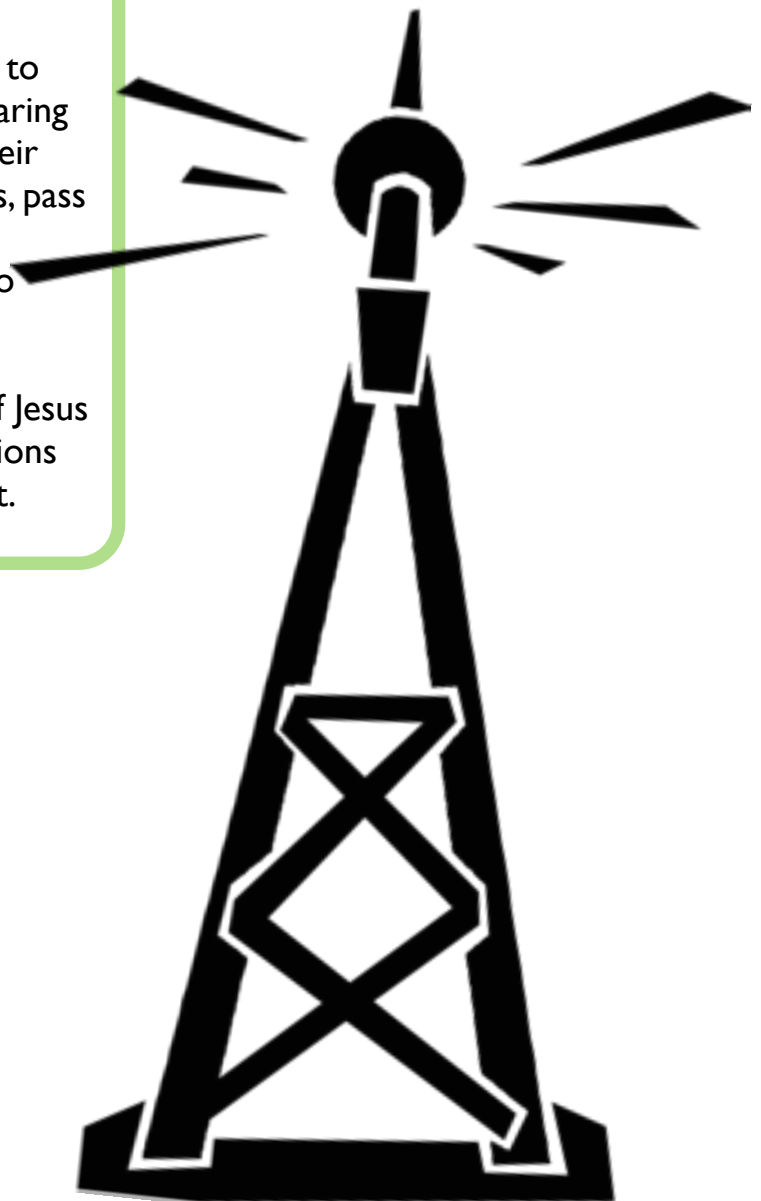
Local Amateur Radio Nets

The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 at 8:30 PM.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



RARS Classifieds

Looking to add a new radio to your shack? Have an antenna for sale? Browse the RARS classifieds for new and used radio equipment at <http://rars.org/classifieds.php>.

RARS members are welcome to post notices about equipment they are selling. Posts last for 30 days and are editable at any time.

Using our classifieds is a great way for buyers to search for available items and for sellers to reach a local, targeted audience.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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